

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 8 is amended and claims 18-25 are added. No new matter has been added.

Claim 8 is amended to delete a reference numeral which is unnecessary in U.S. Patent practice.

Support for new claims 18-25 is found throughout the specification, for example, in Figure 5 and the specification discussing the Figure.

For the following reasons, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter.

On page 2, item 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,032,480 to Kim (hereinafter the "480 patent"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,634,181 to Kim et al (hereinafter the "181 patent"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The 480 patent discloses a cool air duct 2 which is formed by a duct member 3. Formed in the duct member 3 is a plurality of discharge ports 3a. An opening/closing member 6 with a plurality of air holes 5 is situated next to the duct member 3. The air holes 5 correspond to the cool air discharge ports 3a (column 3, lines 8-23, Figure 2). As disclosed in the 480 patent, when the opening/closing member 6 is moved up, the cool air discharge ports 3a are all opened simultaneously as shown in Figure 4. When the opening/closing member 6 is moved down, the

cool air discharge ports 3a are all closed simultaneously by the opening/closing member 6 (column 3, lines 29-33). The opening and closing of the member 6 is done to ensure that no heat generated by the heater 17 enters into the fresh fruit compartment 1 (column 1, line 36 – column 2, line 8). Note that with this structure, all of the cool air discharge ports 3a must be closed or opened by the opening/closing member 6. Further, the opening and the closing of the member 6 occurs through a vertical motion of the member 6.

The 181 patent discloses a refrigerator with a plurality of cool air supply ducts. Cool air can be supplied from a rear wall of the refrigerator to a rear wall duct 34. Cool air can also be supplied from sides of the refrigerator from cool air ducts on the left side 36 and right side 38 of the refrigerator. The 181 patent further discloses that the cool air flowing into the rear duct and to the side ducts can be controlled by opening and closing mechanisms as shown in Figures 7, 9 and 10. Note that there is no mechanism for controlling the direction of the airflow supplied from either the side walls or the rear wall of the refrigerator.

In contrast, claim 1 recites a cool air supply apparatus of a refrigerator that includes a guide passage formed at a rear wall of the refrigerating chamber, and a direction control plate that moves along a widthwise direction of the guide passage and that selectively opens and closes discharge ports on the guide passage. Similarly, claim 10 recites a cool air supplying apparatus of a refrigerator that includes a guide passage on a rear wall of a refrigerating chamber, and a direction control unit installed at the guide passage for selectively opening and closing the

discharge ports on the guide passage in order to control a discharge direction of cool air discharged into the refrigeration chamber.

As discussed above, the 480 patent only discloses movement of the opening/closing member 6 in a lengthwise vertical direction and not a widthwise direction. The 480 patent also fails to disclose selectively opening and closing of the discharge ports because all of the discharge ports are opened or closed simultaneously. Further, the 480 patent fails to disclose controlling the discharge direction of cool air. The 181 patent fails to overcome all the above listed deficiencies of the 480 patent. Therefore, claims 1 and 10 are patentable.

Claims 2-9, which depend from claim 1, and claims 11-17, which depend from claim 10 are likewise patentable over the applied references for at least the reasons discussed above and for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. New Claims

New claims 18-25 are also patentable over the applied references for at least the reasons discussed above and for the additional features they recite.

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III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, Seth S. Kim, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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